REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	23 June 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Death Scenes A Homicide Detective's Scrapbook
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Feral House
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable	Running time:	
Trailers:		Running time:	
		Total Running time:	

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Classification Office classifies the book *Death Scenes A Homicide Detective's Scrapbook* as:
Objectionable.

The book is a reproduction of a private scrapbook of a San Francisco Police Officer and predominantly contains black and white photographic images of men, women and children who have died violently. The injuries suffered by these victims are graphically displayed throughout the book. The people presented in these images have all died as a result of murder, suicide or accident. The photographs appear to be evidential and forensic in nature and are said to date from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Other graphic photo images that appear in the book present people as physical curiosities because of their unusual physical characteristics.

The constant focus throughout the book is upon the wounds inflicted which result in large quantities of blood, severed body parts and the disembowelling of the victims. This sensationalising of death for the purpose of entertainment appeals to the morbid curiosity of the reader, significantly degrading and dehumanising the victims presented.

The cumulative effect of the significant extent and degree to which this book presents degrading and dehumanising images of death is likely to be disturbing to many people. The Classification Office believes that there is likely injury to the public good in forensic photographs of this nature being widely available as entertainment.

In this instance an objectionable classification is a reasonable and justified limitation of s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 given the likely injury to the public good from the graphic images of death presented by *Death Scenes A Homicide Detective's Scrapbook*.

OFLC Ref: 9701298